

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the paragraph at page 5, lines 3-22 and replace it with the following amended paragraph. Amendments are indicated relative to the previous amended version of this paragraph:

It has been discovered that synthetic oligonucleotides directed to a region of the HIV gag inhibit HIV-1 and HIV-2 infection of mammalian cells. These discoveries have been exploited to develop the present invention, which in its broadest aspect, provides synthetic oligonucleotides having a nucleotide sequence specifically complementary to nucleotides 324 to 345 of a conserved gag region of the HIV genome ~~set forth as SEQ ID NO: 5~~. These oligonucleotides have 21 nucleotides ("21mers") which are linked via phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages. Such phosphorothioate linkages contain a substitution of sulfur for oxygen, thereby rendering the oligonucleotide resistant to nucleolytic degradation. The phosphorothioate linkages may be mixed  $R_p$  and  $S_p$  enantiomers, or they may be stereoregular or substantially stereoregular in either  $R_p$  or  $S_p$  form (see Iyer et al. (1995) *Tetrahedron Asymmetry* 6:1051-1054).

Please delete the first three lines of the table at page 12, lines 15-17 and replace it with the following:

Sequence of:

324-345→

CONSENSUS

TCTTCCTCTCTCTACCCACGCT (SEQ ID NO: 5)

CGGAGGCTAGAAGGAGAGAGATGGGTGCGAGAGCGTCAGTA (SEQ ID NO: 7)

Please delete the Sequence Listing at pages 53-56 of the specification and replace it with the attached Sequence Listing.